



DPM-1

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

May 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

A C/Ops

23 JUN 1988

2.

3.

C/E&PS

6/14

4.

DD/FBIS

24 June

5.

D/FBIS

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6.

7.

PO/RA

6/28

8.

SA/CD

6/29

9.

10.

C/AS

11.

C/B&F/AS

12.

13.

14.

C/AG

5/7

15.

Exec. Reg.

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FBIS-6028-88
2 June 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Acting Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- May 1988

I. GENERAL

A. On the night of 2 May, the IDF, using mixed elements in roughly regimental strength and receiving support from SLA units, entered Lebanon in a preemptive strike against targets thought to be staging areas for terrorist penetrations of Israel's northern border. The operation, which lasted less than 48 hours and was the largest military move into Lebanon since the early 1985 withdrawal from that country, extended beyond Israel's self-declared "security zone" and was highlighted by the destruction of Maydun following heavy house-to-house fighting between IDF paratroopers and Hizballah fighters. The village had been deserted some time ago by its civilian inhabitants and, according to Jerusalem radio, had been converted into a Hizballah "fortified barracks." Defense Minister Rabin was criticized from many quarters for not consulting the Cabinet prior to the operation, during which three IDF soldiers were killed; but Prime Minister Shamir, as well as most of the Cabinet itself, supported Rabin's decision.

B. Two interesting developments were seen during May in Israel's relations with the East Bloc countries. On the 8th, Foreign Minister Peres paid a surprise visit to Budapest where he met with Hungarian officials, prompting media speculation that diplomatic ties might be restored in the next few months. Following the Hungarian sojourn, Peres went on to Madrid for the Socialist Internationale and then to Washington. During his visits in these two Western capitals, Peres met with Soviet officials, whose statements to him suggest a possible shift in the Soviet position on an international conference on Middle East peace. Israeli media has speculated widely that the Soviet decision not to insist on binding arbitration powers for an international conference and Moscow media's urging of the PLO to accept UN Resolutions 238 and 242 signal a trend toward moderation in Soviet Middle East policy. Prime Minister Shamir, however, is not so optimistic.

C. Even the weather made news this month -- American staffers got an unusual taste of desert climate when one of the worst sharavs (desert wind) in recent memory raised temperatures to 110 degrees Fahrenheit on the 18th in Tel Aviv and even higher in other parts of the country. We currently are again enjoying a long, extended Israeli spring, with moderate temperatures and unusually low humidity.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau received headquarters approval to purchase a TVRO, and by the end of the month administrative steps were under way to determine the dish's exact mounting location on the roof of the Migdalor building. Once operational the TVRO will be used for coverage of Turkish television and possibly for limited backstopping of Nicosia's Tehran television coverage ✓

2. Bureau editors completed a spring reception survey of Cairo television. The bureau hopes to provide limited backstop coverage of two programs currently monitored in Nicosia. Although the backstop plan is not yet finalized, coordination on it has begun, and at least partial implementation is expected by the end of June.

B. Technical

1. The ERB approved the bureau's request to test a new computer hardware configuration at the slot position. Rather than using two full work stations, the slot editor will work with a single keyboard, a single CPU running Double DOS, and two video monitors, making both sides of Double DOS visible at all times. Although the primary reason for the experiment is to save space at the slot position, the bureau expects that editorial flexibility will be increased. The Victor VPCII computers do not support such a configuration, so an IBM PC/XT will be used as a test bed. If the new configuration proves operationally useful, the bureau will continue its use and will ask for further ERB/LEC investigation of its practical application with the Victors.

2. Five IBM Selectric III typewriters were transferred to Jordan Bureau.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Persian/Dari/Arabic monitor [] underwent two separate laser procedures to repair a damaged retina. After three weeks of sick leave, during which Nicosia and London provided coverage assistance, [] has now returned to work feeling fit.

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2. [] a new communications operator, entered on duty on the 8th, bringing the commo section back up to full strength.

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IV. VISITS

1. [redacted], deputy chief of Jordan Bureau, visited Tel Aviv 24-30 May for an orientation to and training on the FBA-1 system in preparation for her upcoming headquarters assignment.

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2. AG analyst [redacted] visited the bureau 16-18 May as part of his tour of Middle East bureaus and embassies.

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3. A headquarters TDY safety and health officer inspected the bureau premises on the 17th.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Editorial Trainee [redacted] had the opportunity to learn more about embassy life when he attended the newcomers briefings, including the orientation trip to Jerusalem, with Junior Editor [redacted].

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[redacted]
Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

cc: JN, NC

Attachments: Production Report

Tel Aviv Bureau Production Report for MAY 1988

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	250840
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	49760
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	888

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	7783.00	840.00	58.00
(minutes or issues per week)	min.	min.	issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus	9740
(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in English to Cyprus	0
(Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian	0
(Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian	0
(Clandestine) Our Radio in Turkish to Turkey	1690
(Clandestine) Voice of Turkish Communist party in Turkish	0
(Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian	0

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew	63010	
Jerusalem Domestic Service in English	16610	
Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew	8750	
Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic	5440	
Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew	25650	
Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic		0
Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English		0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic			0
Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic			0
Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic			0
Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH Arabic			7630
Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English			0
Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English			15990
Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew			230
Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew			9380
Tel Aviv BEMAHANE in Hebrew			1970
Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew			4000
Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew			12660
Tel Aviv HA'IR in Hebrew			0
Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew			880
Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew			3370
Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew			380
Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew			10440
Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew			9000

TURKEY

Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish	29770		
Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish		1940	
Ankara ANATOLIA in English		11290	
Ankara ANATOLIA in French		0	
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			0
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			0

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew	1020		
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BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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Moscow in Turkish to Turkey	0	
Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan	0	
Moscow in Persian to Iran	0	

UNITED KINGDOM London BBC World Service in English	0	
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TEL AVIV BUREAU MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR

ATTACHMENT B

1. TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 250,840 (262,060)
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 49,760 (50,500)
DAILY WORDAGE FILED AVERAGED 9,697 (10,419)
HIGHEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 15,830 on 5th May 1988
LOWEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 2,210 on 22nd May 1988
2. OUTAGES ON OUTGOING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 7.30HOURS, 1.4 PERCENT.
OUTAGES ON INCOMING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 7.30HOURS, 1.4 PERCENT.
OUTAGES:



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3. WORDS FILED VIA TELEX DURING OUTAGES OF THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT: 550. (1,530)

NB. Figures from preceding month in Parentheses.